

ANOTHER NEW SPECIES OF *TRIPOGON* (POACEAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of Poaceae, *Tripogon ravianus* Sunil & Pradeep from the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu, India is described and illustrated

RESUMEN

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie de Poaceae, *Tripogon ravianus* Sunil & Pradeep de los Western Ghats de Tamil Nadu, India.

During previous floristic investigations on the Western Ghats of Kerala, India, two new species of *Tripogon* Roem. & Schult. were described (Pradeep & Sunil 1999). Since then, yet another remarkable undescribed species of *Tripogon* from Pykara on the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu, South India has been discovered. It is described here as new.

Tripogon ravianus Sunil & Pradeep, sp. nov. (**Fig. 1**). TYPE: INDIA. TAMIL NADU. NILGIRI
DT.: Pykara near Udagamandalam, 1990 m, 3 Dec 2000, Sunil 2176 (HOLOTYPE: BRIT; ISOTYPES:
CALI, K, L, NY).

Tripogon anantaswaniano affinis, *T. ravianus* racemis 15–40 cm longis, spiculis 10–25 mm longis et flosculis 6–14 instructis, glumis inferioris profunde 2-lobatis, lemmatis apicaliter 4-lobata facile distinguendus.

Tufted perennial. Culms 24–70 cm tall; nodes glabrous. Leaf blades 5–35 cm long, 2–4 mm wide, the margins slightly scabridulous or scabrid especially towards the base, the upper surface pubescent with short white, papillose hairs, glabrous abaxially. Leaf-sheaths 3–9 cm long, glabrous, apex pubescent with a tuft of 2–3 mm long hairs; ligule a fine membrane. Racemes terminal, 15–40 cm long, with 15–48 spikelets; rachis smooth, glabrous. Spikelets 1–2.5 cm long, linear, secund, dark gray, 6–14-flowered, distant, up to 7 mm apart. Lower glume 2–4 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, coriaceous, broadly ovate, unequally 2-lobed, 1-veined, the inner margin of smaller lobe slightly serrulate or entire, apex of both lobes acuminate. Upper glume 5–6 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide, lanceolate, notched at apex and awned, coriaceous, 1-veined; awn 1.5–2 mm long, scabrid, the lateral lobes ca. 1 mm long, lanceolate, acute. Lemma 3–4 mm long excluding awns, 2–3 mm wide, coriaceous, dark gray, 3-veined, 4-lobed at the apex; awns 3, scabridulous, the central awn 4–5 mm long, the lateral awns 3–3.5 mm

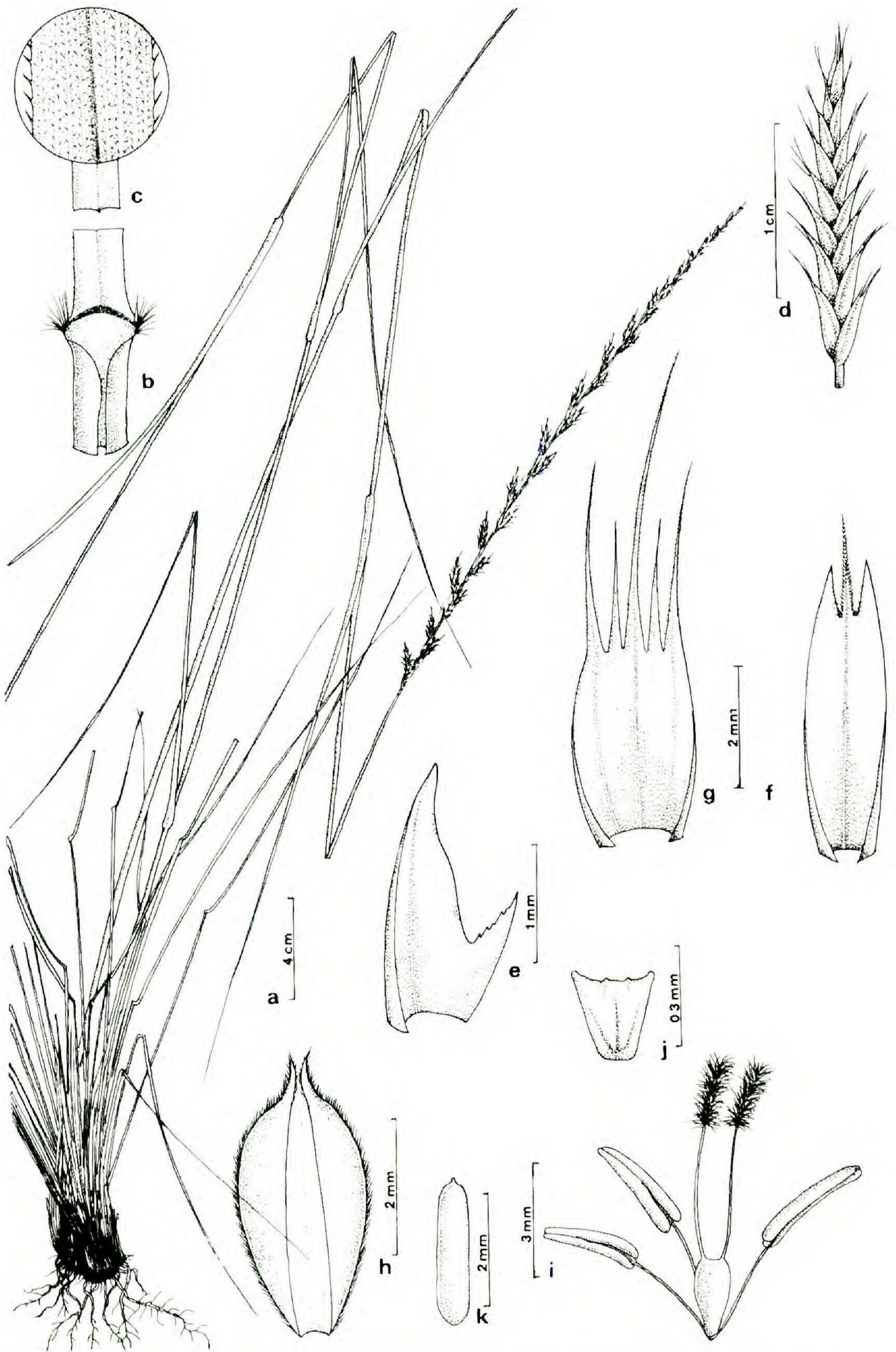


FIG. 1. *Tripogon ravianus* Sunil & Pradeep. a. Habit. b. Sheath and a portion of lamina. c. Portion of lamina enlarged. d. Spikelet. e. Lower glume. f. Upper glume. g. Lemma. h. Palea. i. Stamens and Pistil. j. Lodicule k. Caryopsis.

long; lobes between awns ca. 2 mm long, acuminate; callus tufted; hairs up to 1 mm long. Palea 2.5–3.5 mm long, 1–1.5 mm wide, obovate, hyaline, 2-keeled, the keels ciliate, apex shortly 2-lobed, the lobes acuminate. Lodicules 2, 0.5–0.75 mm long, wedge-shaped. Stamens 3; anthers 1.5–2 mm long, oblong, creamy yellow; filaments 1–1.5 mm long. Ovary 0.75–1 mm long, ca. 0.5 mm broad, obovate; styles 2, ca. 1 mm long; stigma 1–1.5 mm long, feathery, creamy white. Caryopses 1.8–2.3 mm long, 0.4–0.7 mm wide, oblong-cylindric. Chromosome number unknown.

Distribution.—*Tripogon ravianus* is endemic to Tamil Nadu and is known only from the type locality, Pykara near Udagamandalam in Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu.

Ecology and phenology.—This species grows from 1500–2200 m elevation on road cuts and wet rocky hillsides; flowering October to late December.

Etymology.—The specific epithet honors Prof. N. Ravi, teacher of the first author and a grass specialist now with the Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Trivandrum.

Tripogon ravianus is closely allied to *T. anataswamianus* Sreek., V.J. Nair & N.C. Nair, a species endemic to Kerala (Sreekumar & Nair 1991). It can be distinguished by its 15–40 cm long racemes, 10–25 mm long spikelets with 6–14 florets, deeply 2-lobed lower glumes and apically 4-lobed lemma.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *TRIPOGON* IN SOUTH INDIA

1. Culms thickened below by the persistent leaf-sheaths; leaves equitant, rigid, pungent _____ **T. pungens**
1. Culms not thickened below by the persistent leaf-sheaths; leaves not equitant, not rigid or pungent.
 2. Lemmas cleft at apex into 2 lobes, awned in the cleft; lobes awned or not.
 3. Central awn of the lemma flexuous, capillary, several times as long as lemma _____ **T. capillatus**
 3. Central awn of the lemma straight or curved, not more than twice as long as the lemma.
 4. Spikelets 10–40 mm long; paleas broadly winged _____ **T. wightii**
 4. Spikelets 4–17 mm long; paleas not broadly winged.
 5. Culms less than 20 cm tall; central awn geniculate, strongly twisted below _____ **T. pauperculus**
 5. Culms greater than 20 cm tall; central awn not geniculate or twisted.
 6. Perennials with wiry roots forming tufts; leaves glabrous.
 7. Leaves and culms glaucous, involute; lower glume lobed on one-side _____ **T. jacquemontii**
 7. Leaves and culm not glaucous, flat; lower glume symmetrical _____ **T. vellarianus**
 6. Perennials with fibrous roots, forming a close turf; leaves villous on the upper surface.
 8. Spikelets 5–8-flowered; lower glume 2 mm, notched on one-side _____ **T. sivarajanii**

8. Spikelets 1–2-flowered; lower glume 0.7 mm, symmetrical _____ **T. roxburghianus**
2. Lemmas cleft at apex into 4 or 6 lobes or with a definite lobe between each lateral awn and the central; outer lobes if present awned or not.
9. Leaves hairy; ligules inconspicuous; keels of the paleas scabrid _____ **T. bromoides**
9. Leaves glabrous or hairy; ligules conspicuous, thin, membranous; keels of the paleas ciliate.
10. Leaves glabrous; lemmas cleft at apex into 6 lobes _____ **T. anantaswamianus**
10. Leaves pubescent; lemmas cleft at apex into 4 lobes.
11. Culms 10–20 cm tall; lower glumes shallowly lobed on one-side above the middle; central lobes of the lemmas ovate-acute _____ **T. narayanae**
11. Culms 24–70 cm tall; lower glume deeply lobed on one-side below the middle; central lobes of the lemmas lanceolate _____ **T. ravianus**

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